

EPISODE # 114
June 30, 1994

The Valley COMIC N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:
THIS & THAT
BEYOND POLITIX
AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS
THE SIMPSONS
USA TODAY

"GAMES"
DIPLOMA

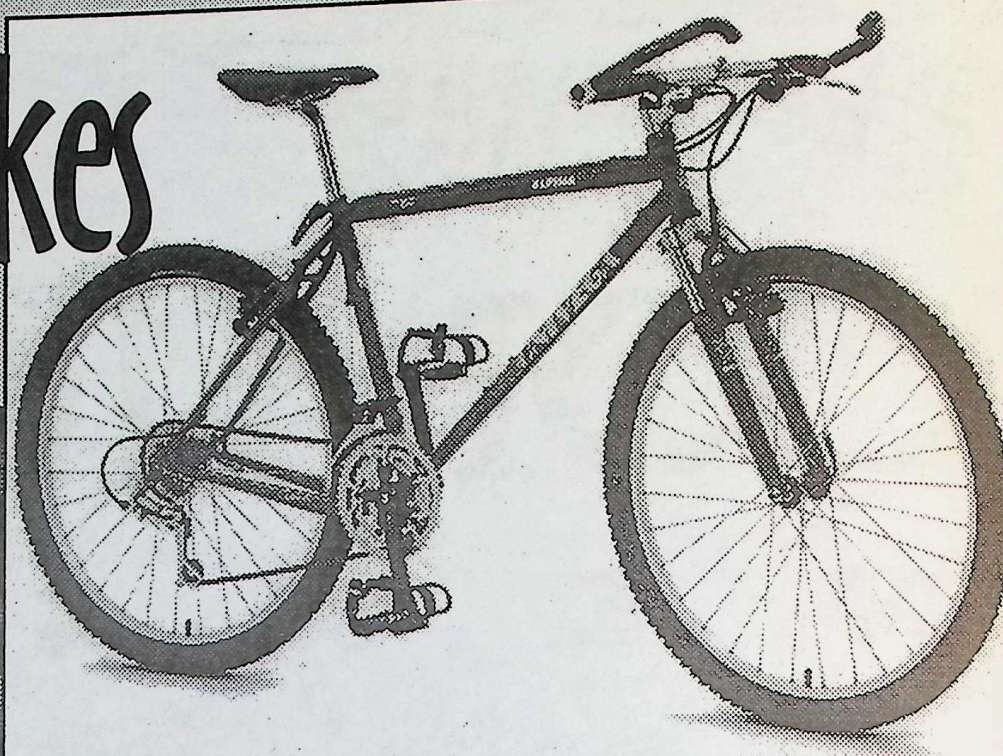


INSIDE

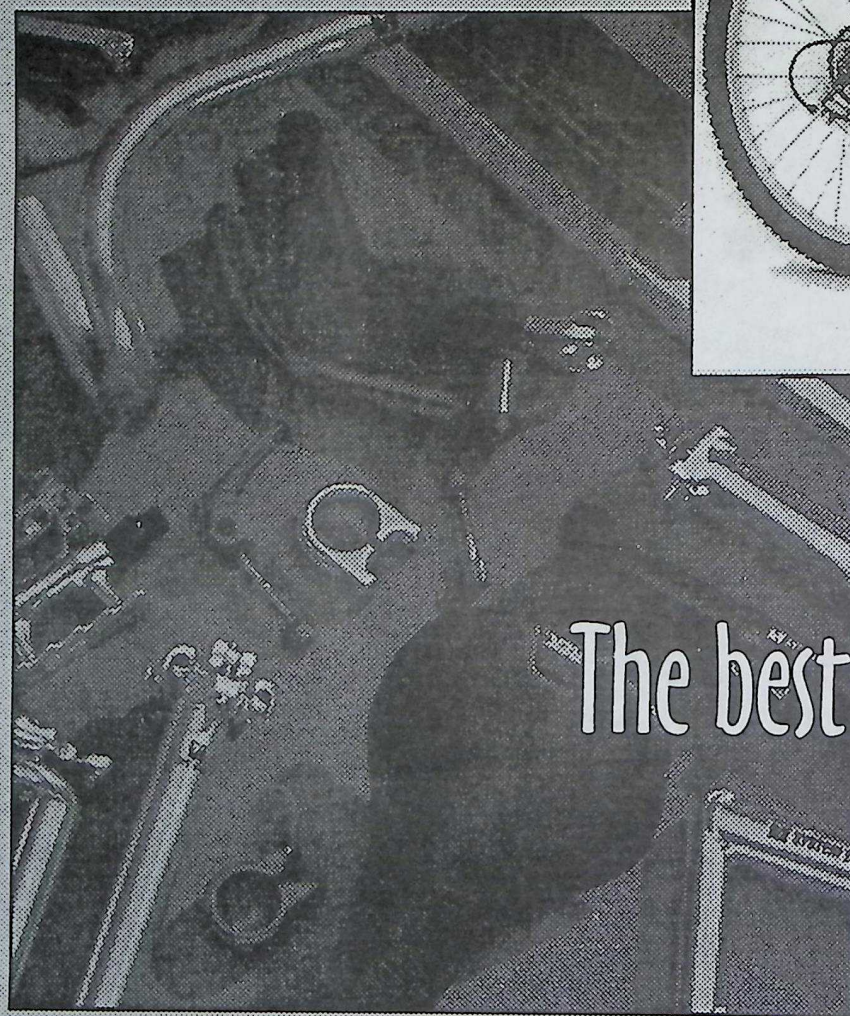
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
LEO T. BALDWIN,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK



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by Mike Chrisman



You parents of young children might want to consider clipping this column before the kids get to scope it out. It deals with one of those pesky adult themes, and God forbid your five-year-old should ever ask, "Mommy, how did I get in your tummy, and did I come out like that monster in *Alien*?"

Here's the thing: the other day a friend was telling me about this guy she's started seeing. It's a new relationship — some uncertainties, some hopes, and this being the 90s, a *major* dose of caution about intimacy. So she was talking about her latest date with him — let's say it was the fifth — and she says, "We had dinner, saw a movie, then went to his place and had sex." And she kept talking, but I was stuck on "had sex." *Had sex.* Like "For a snack I *had sardines*." I mean, I know this is how people talk, but how come sex is something two people *have*? Like "I *had* sex, but — oops! — I lost it."

Folks, we should listen to the French, who *invented* sex. A French person would no more *have* sex than they would voluntarily smile at an American. Their phrase *faire amour* means, literally, "to construct a meaningful relationship while eating *coq au vin* at a bistro that has gypsy violinists and an amusing waiter named Ernesto." The fact that a French couple's evening also includes making the beast with two backs is fairly incidental to everything else that happens from the time they sit down in the restaurant to the time they begin the next day over *croissants*, *café au lait*, and the *Paris Tribune* crossword puzzle. Of course, French love-making also frequently involves snails and rare underground fungal growths, but hey, nobody's perfect.

Even the Italians, who wrongly believe they're the world's greatest lovers, would sooner lose a World Cup match than simply *have sex*. Every evening the Italian air is stuffed with pungent kitchen aromas announcing, "Tonight, caro, I'm gonna satiate your senses right into next week, and it's gonna take *forever*." Italians have seen so many museum paintings of the Garden of Eden, they think Adam and Eve were Italian ... and never mind a silly apple — Italians believe the serpent offered Eve *pasta Alfredo* and a gondola ride. Believe me, there's a reason Italians come home for two hours in the middle of the workday, and it ain't to mow the lawn.

I'm not so wimpy as to think a ban on saying "had sex" will finally usher in the Age of Aquarius. And I'm *especially* not saying "having sex" is any worse than "making love" if you're a 14-year-old. 14-year-olds oughta be having homework, not sex. But thoughts *are* things, kids ... and it's just not smart to pencil sex onto a laundry list of unsavory things we had: vaccinations, diarrhea, warts, trouble passing geometry, and so on. I think it's time to chuck "had sex" into the trash compactor of history. The rest of us Bozos could profit big time from doing other things with sex: reveling in it, rejoicing with it, sharing it, goofing on its strange and lovely faces. Just quit *having* it, will ya? We're better than that.

The Valley Comic News

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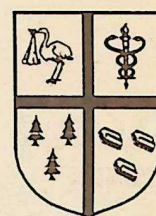
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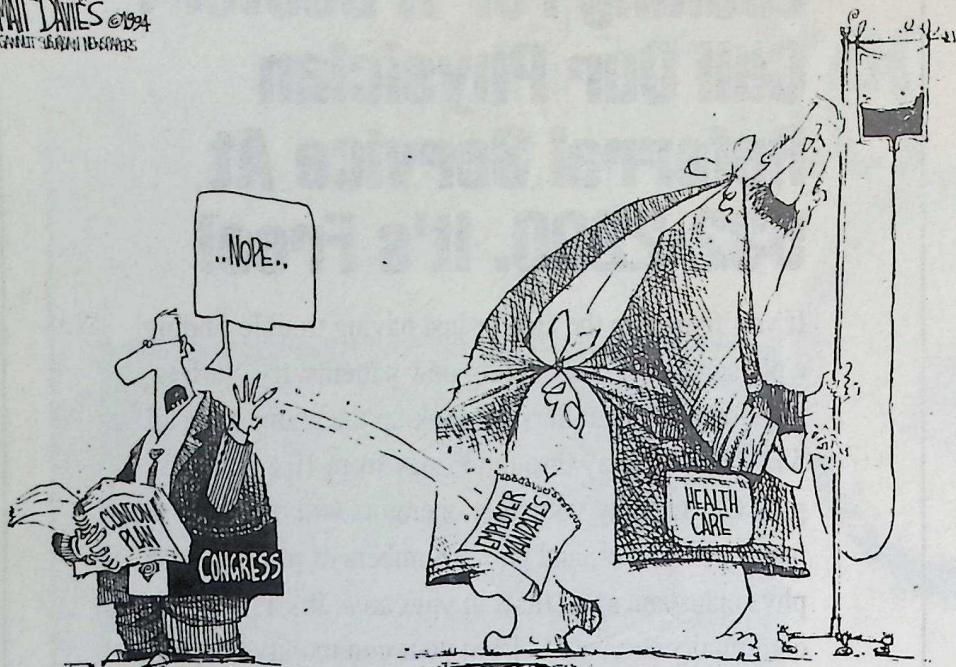
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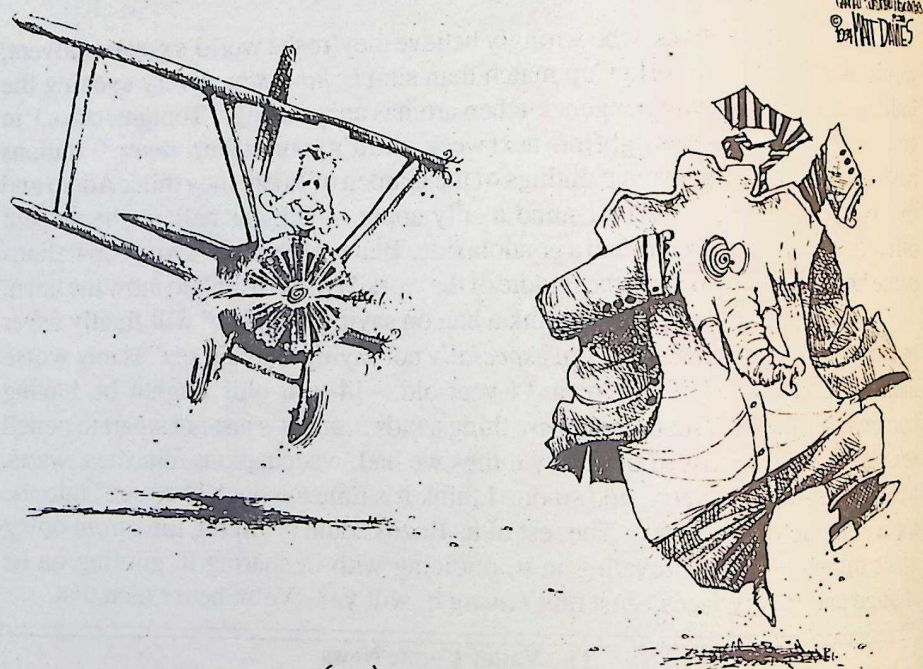
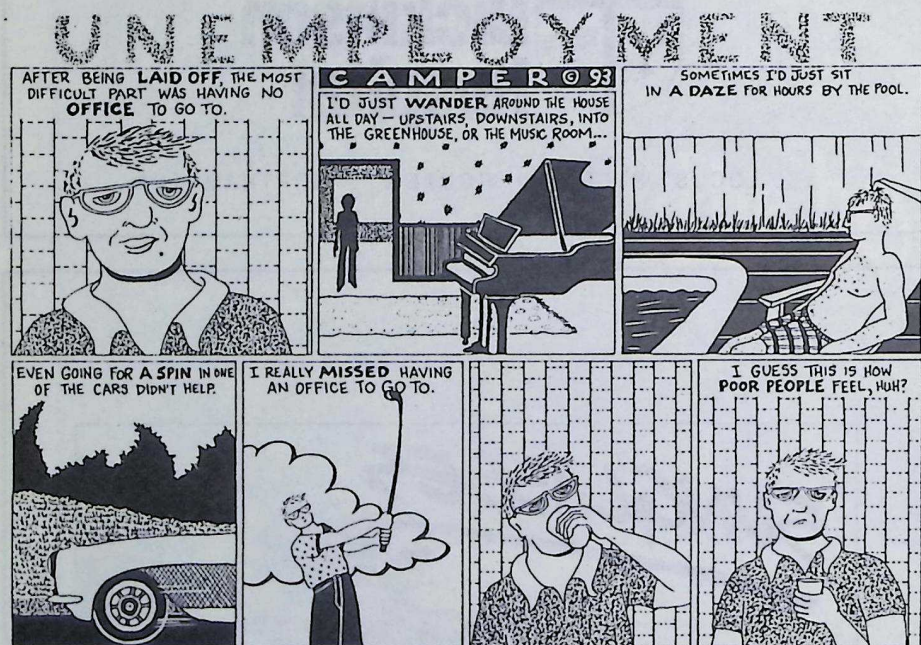
Basic
DUDS
at Faces

MAIN STREET - NORTHAMPTON - OPEN 7 DAYS

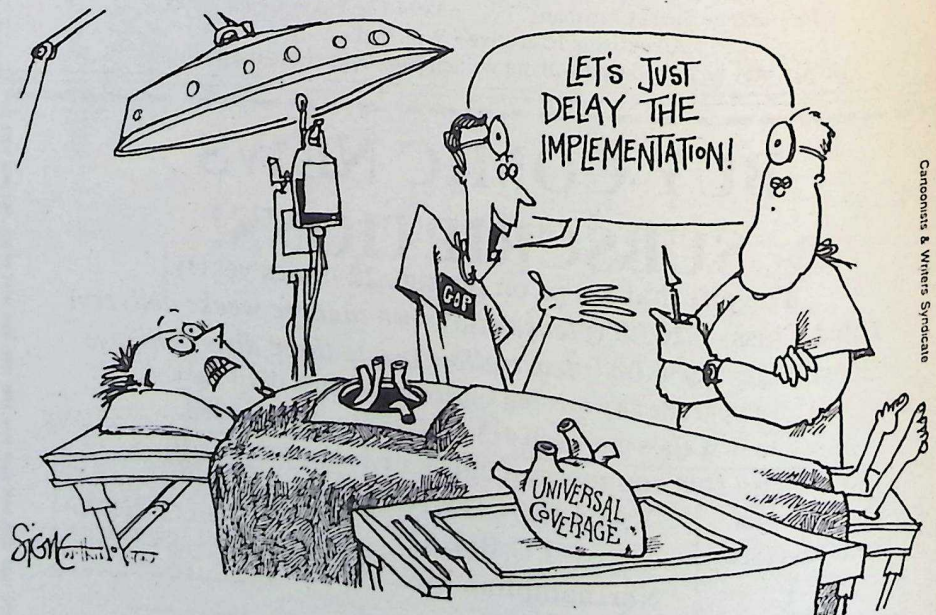
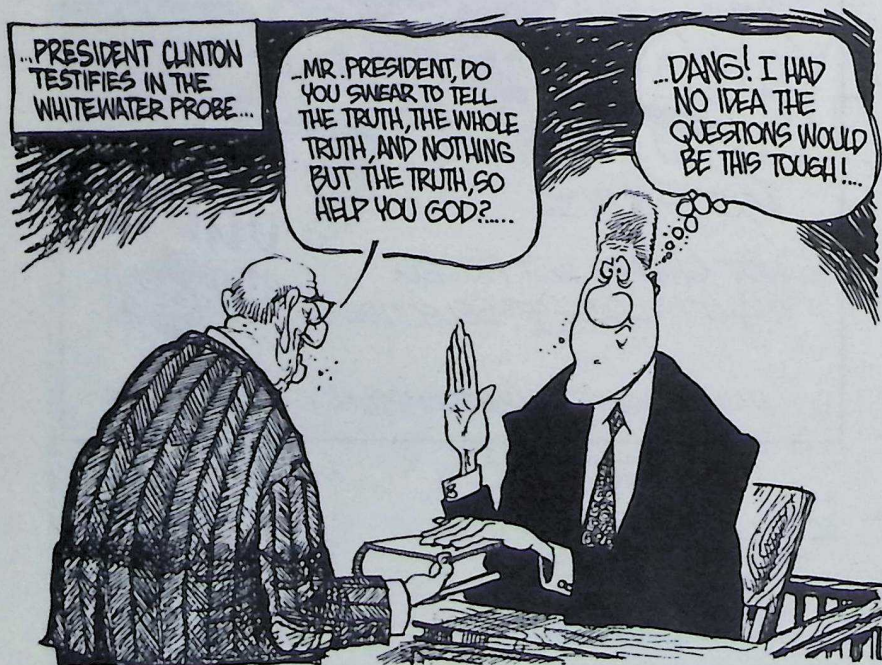
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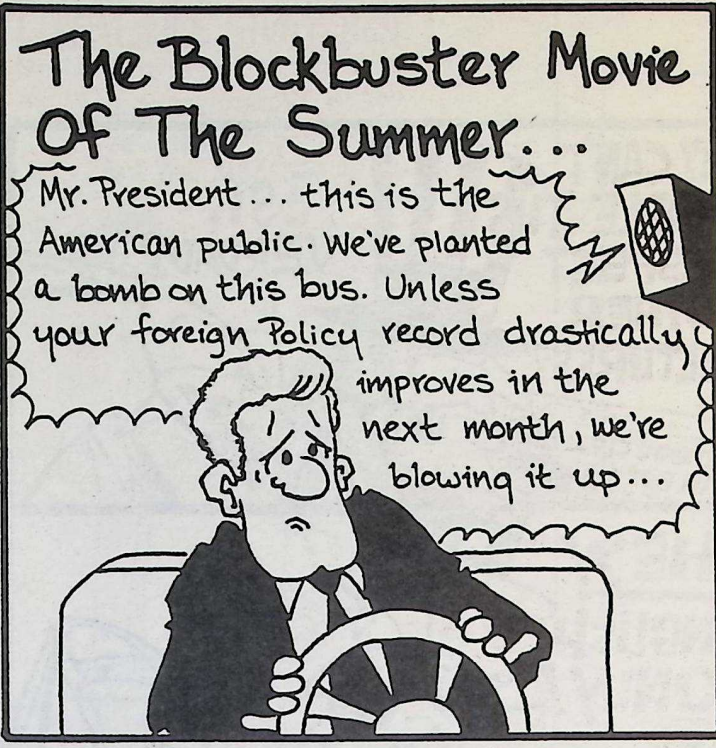


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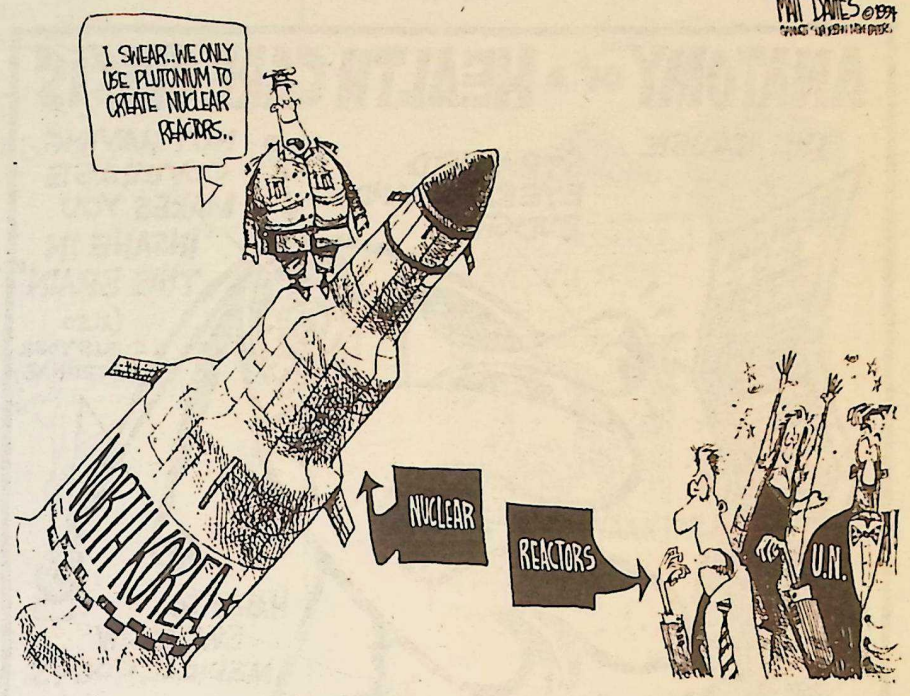


(COLLIE) NORTH by NORTHWEST





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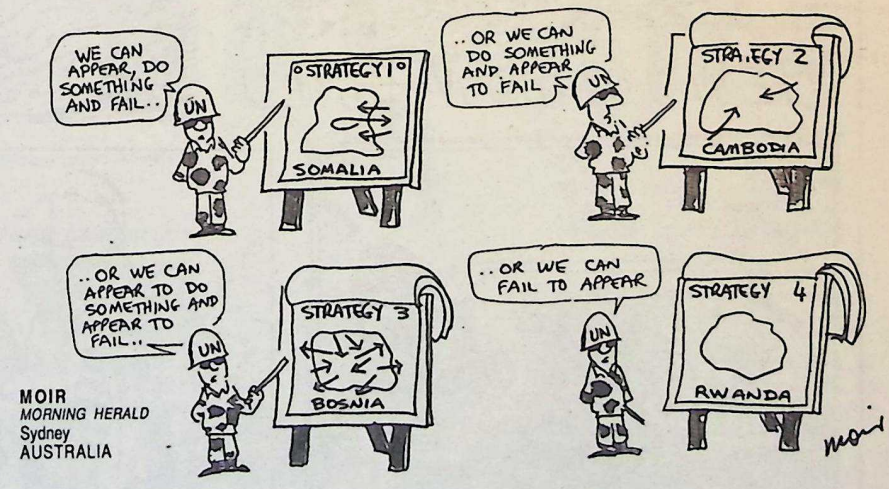


SIGMUND WILKINSON

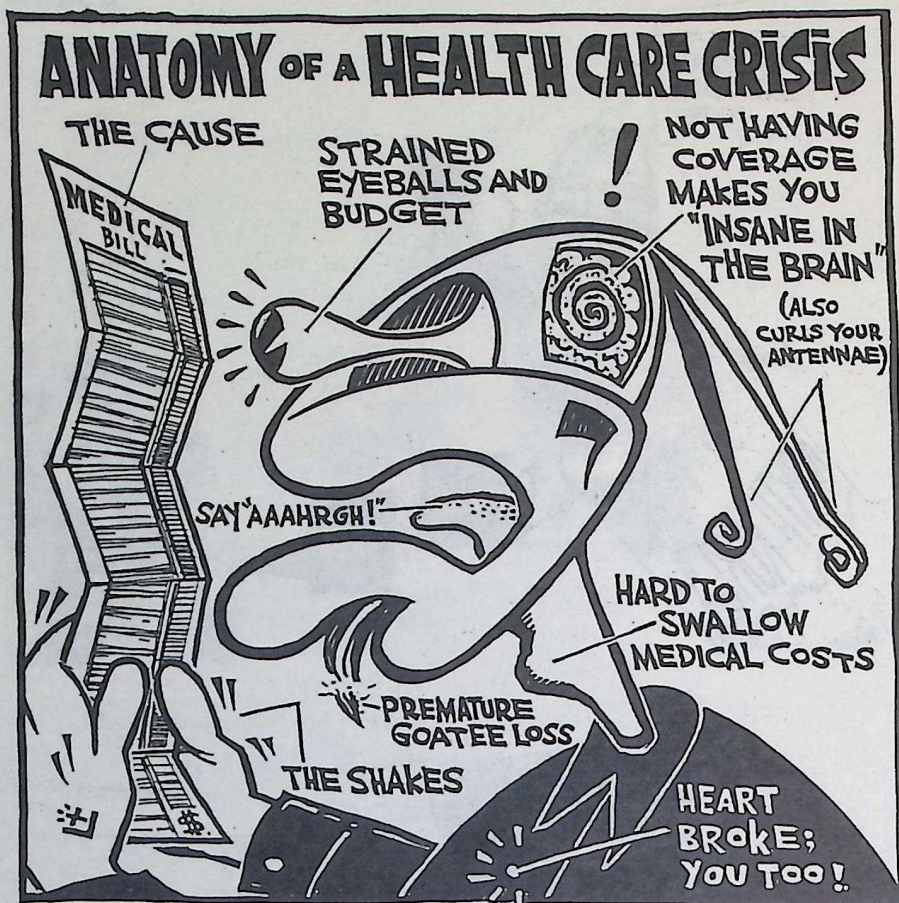
Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



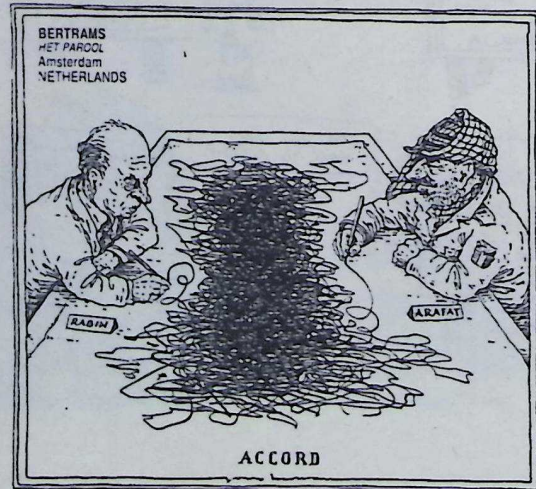
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MOIR MORNING HERALD Sydney AUSTRALIA



VIEWS OF THE WORLD

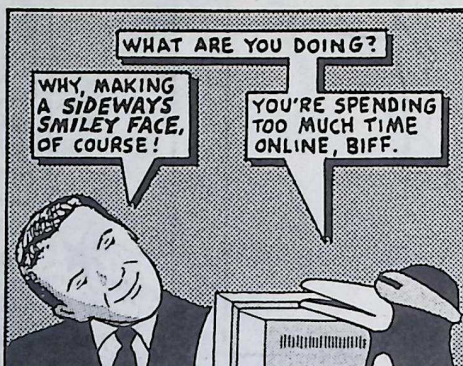
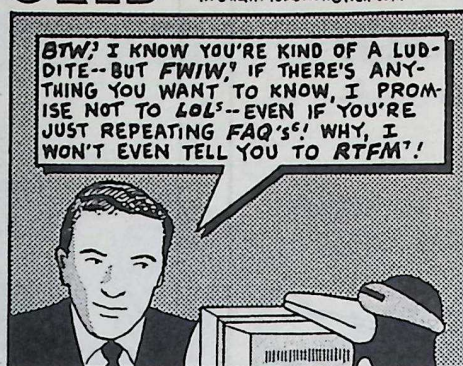
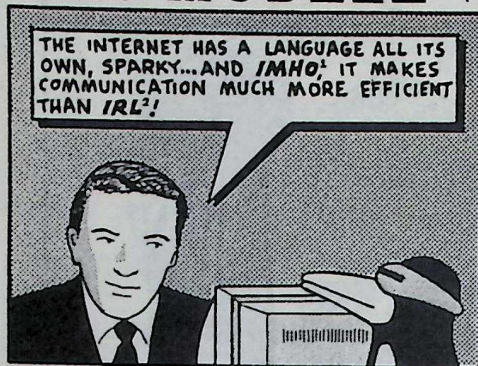


THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 7-6-94

...E-MAIL: TOMMORROW@WELL.COM



ALL NETSPEAK GUARANTEED GENUINE: *IN MY HUMBLE OPINION; *IN REAL LIFE; *BY THE WAY; *FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH; *LAUGH OUT LOUD; *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS; *READ THE F-----G MANUAL...

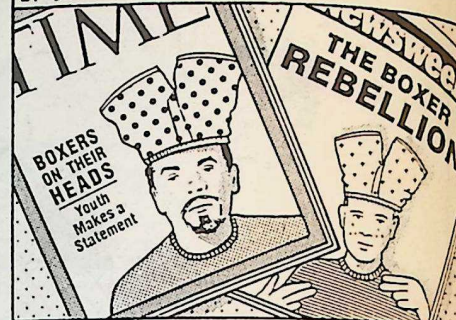
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 7-13-94

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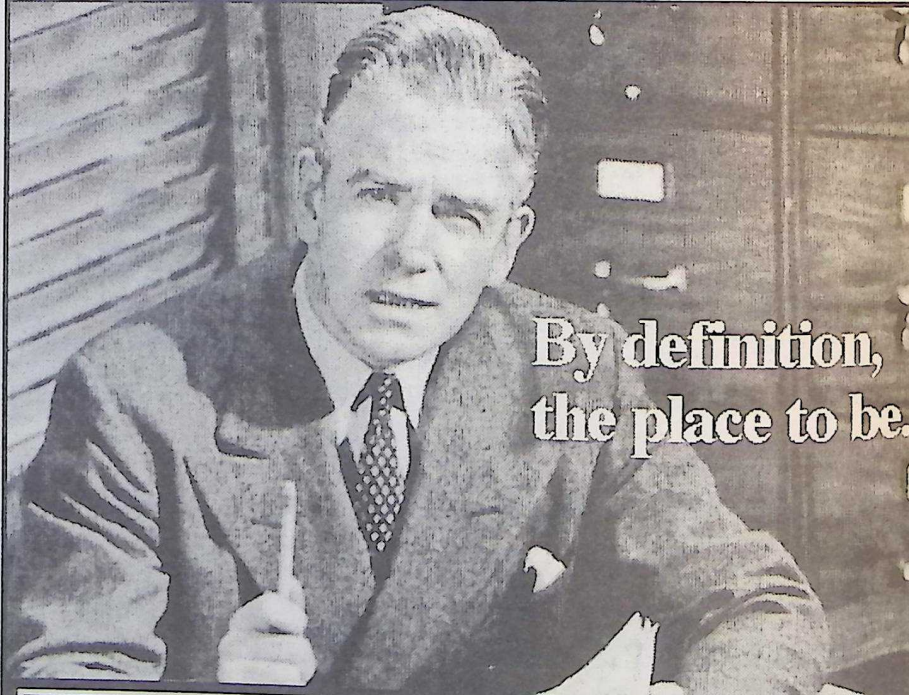
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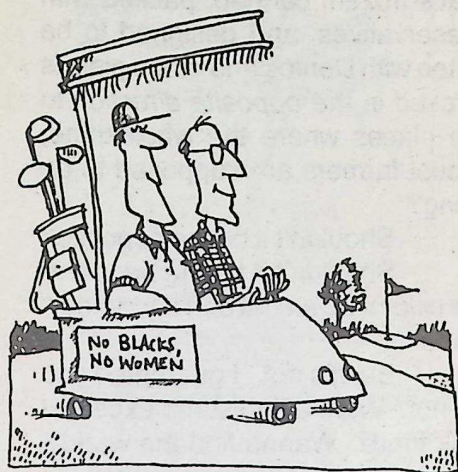
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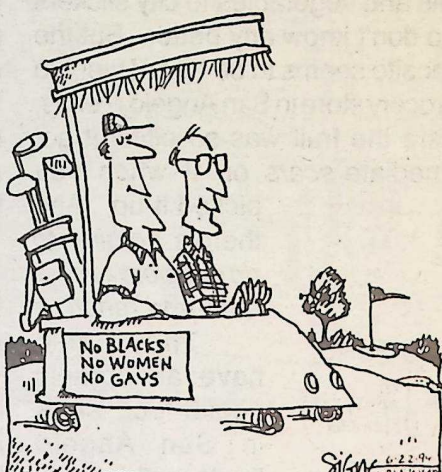


The Valley COMIC NEWS

THIS & THAT



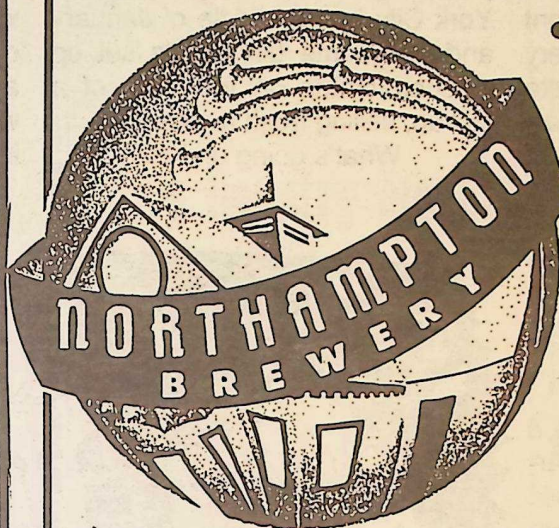
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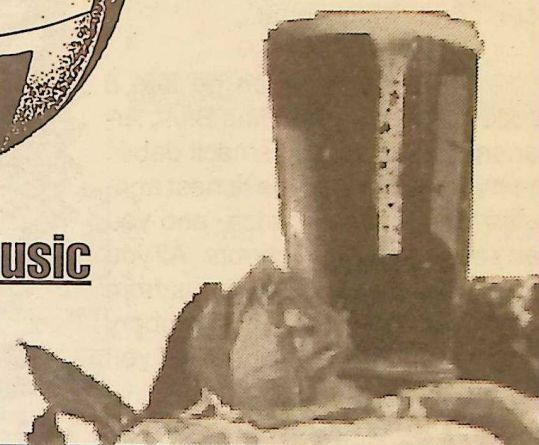
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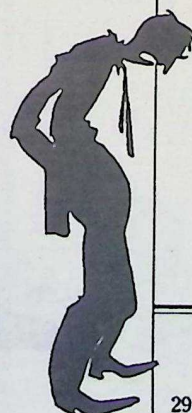
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

I have a question.

How come, every time I go to San Francisco, or Seattle, or El Lay, or New York City, or Chicago — which, let's face it, are big old giant urban dirty messy places — every time I go to one of these big concrete cities, I always find these *huge* markets where they sell 947 kinds of fresh vegetables and fruits from every country on Earth?

But, if I go to West Texas, or South Florida, or New Mexico, or rural Iowa, where they *grow the stuff*, I can't find diddly squat.

How can this be?

I mean, you can go into a grocery store in, say, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, which is right smack dab in the middle of one of the richest agricultural areas in America, and you can't even find fresh *carrots*. All you can find is these plastic bags from Arizona or somewhere with rubbery denture-destroyers inside. And you can grow a carrot *anywhere*.

You can go to a grocery store in Biloxi, Mississippi, and find a larger selection of frozen macaroni-and-cheese dinners than fresh fruit, even

though you're standing in one of the few areas of the South where they can grow fruit almost year-round. Yet you can go to Union Square in New York City in the middle of January and find some guy who's set up wooden crates on the back of a pickup, selling fresh avocados.

What's going on here?

I used to think the farmers were keeping all the *good stuff* for themselves, and selling all the lame fruits and vegetables to city slickers who don't know any better. But the opposite seems to be true. I went to a grocery store in San Angelo, Texas, where the fruit was so pitiful it got immediate *scars* on it when you picked it up. And there's *nothing to do out there except farm and ranch*.

They also have an organic health-food store in San Angelo that's nothing but vitamins and stuff in bags and cans. But go to East Dallas, and you'll find a huge supermarket with nothing but stuff that was picked *that morning*.

So my question is, how is it possible that every-

thing in the country that's fresh is trucked 1100 miles a day to urban health-food stores, and everything that's frozen, canned, packed with preservatives, and designed to be eaten with Doritos and moon pies, is trucked in the *opposite direction* to the places where the wholesome, robust farmers are supposed to be living?

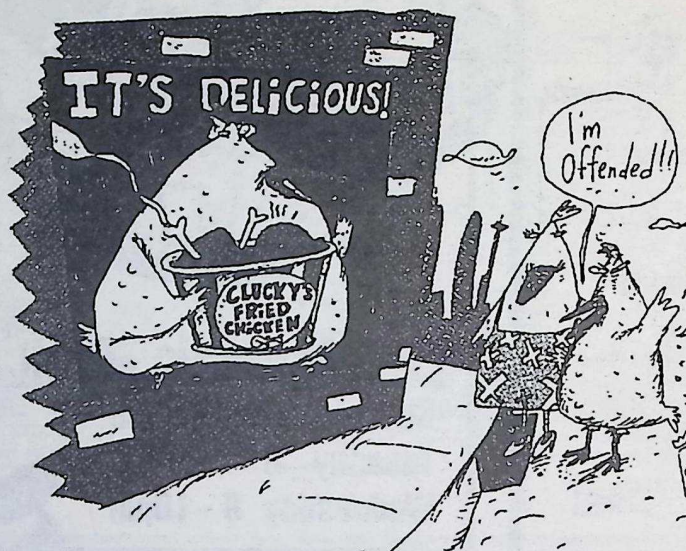
Shouldn't it be the opposite?

Shouldn't it be the people in the cities who are fat and undernourished?

But it's not. I guarantee you it's not. Wanna find some excellent junk food? Wanna find the world's largest supply of frozen dinners? Go to America's smallest town.

The next time I go fishing, I'm stopping in Brooklyn first, to stock up on farm-fresh veggies and grain-fed steaks. 'Cause you can't trust those bait stands anymore, you know what I mean?

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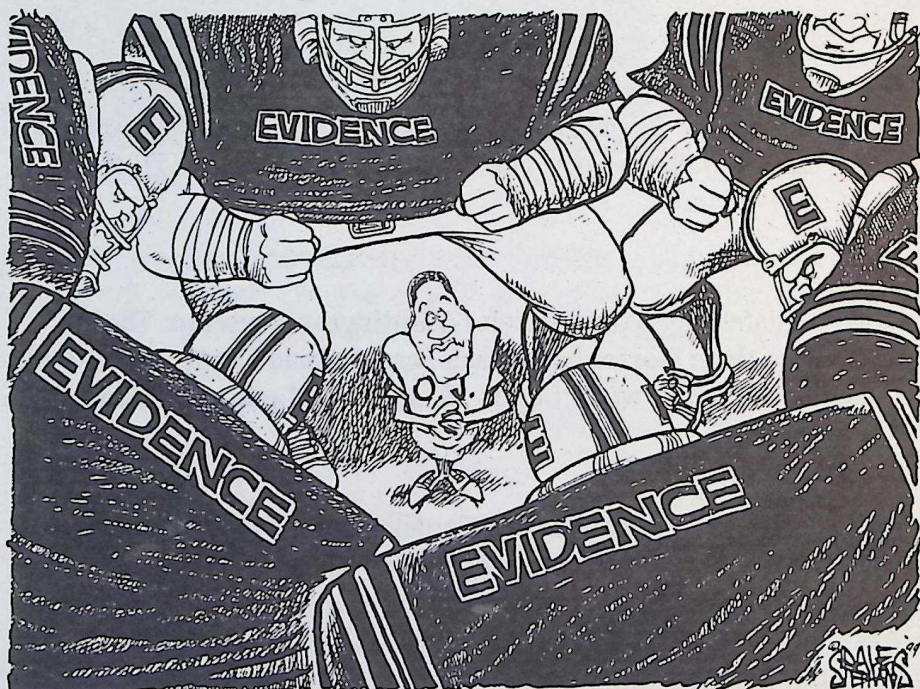
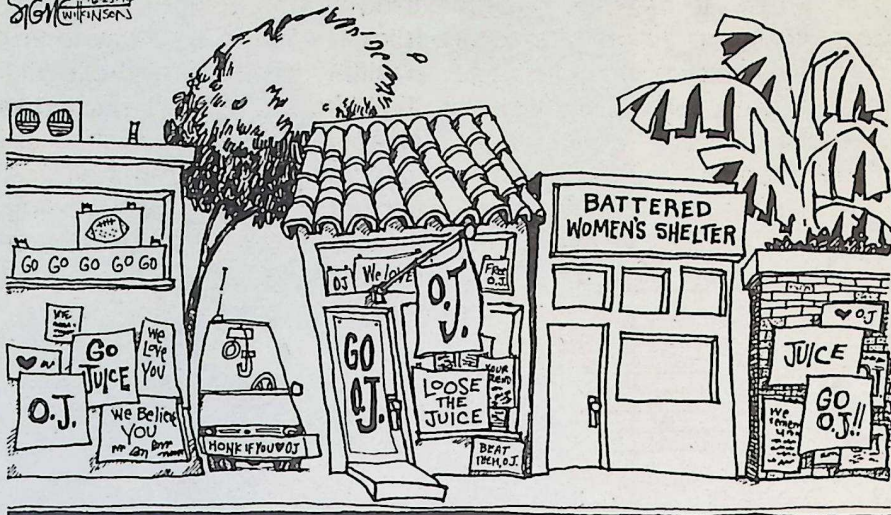
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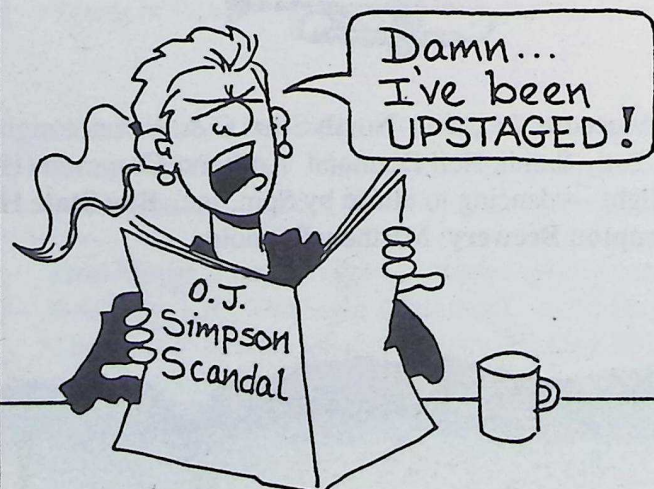
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WINE & WHISKY



THU
THIRTY

Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Loup Garou, Soup Hadley Pub: open mic blues jam Seven O's: DJ dance club Pearl Street: 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek

FRI
ONE

Pearl Street: club music w/ DJ Lance Seven O's: Swift Kicks Delaney House: LaValley Duo Iron Horse: Dar Williams (7pm), Angry Johnny & The Killbillies, Amy Fairchild Band, The Flying Alligators (10 pm) Bay State Hotel: Babe the Blue Ox, Hum, Chune Vertex: 18+ Laser CD dance party North Star: Dance party, w/ DJ Betsy Brunelle's Marina Dockside: Paris

SAT
TWO

Vertex: Selectrocution Bay State Hotel: Swampgirl, Falafel Boy Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum: The Chesnut Duo Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan Iron Horse: Big Waagh Scratch Band (7pm), Trailer Park (10pm) Delaney House: LaValley Duo North Star: house music, w/ DJ Steven Brunelle's Marina Dockside: Paris Seven O's: live country music

SUN
THREE

Pearl Street: Sugartooth, Orangutang, Pulse, Grandmother Strong Iron Horse: Cordelia's Dad Northampton Brewery: Stewy, The Bombastics Seven O's: open mic Hadley Pub: comedy open mic North Star: Retro dance night Vertex: Dissolve, Handoverfist

MON
FOUR

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve

TUE
FIVE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Mark Thomas Hadley Pub: open mic Pearl Street: Teen night



WED
SIX

Hadley Pub: Reggae party Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum: Inca Son North Star: C & W dance night Iron Horse: Solitary All-Stars — Tom Waits, The Carpenters, Patty Smith, Neil Diamond Amherst Common (Hot Summer Nights Series): Zen Cats Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: Rock 'n' Roll Bargain Night (free before 10pm) Northampton Brewery: Matthew Reynolds



Genevieve Rose, 15, playing
with Joe Sallins at the Iron Horse.

Tobey photo



© E C

THU
SEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Atomic Fireballs, Lumber **Seven O's:** DJ Dance Club **Hadley Pub:** open mic blues jam **Pearl Street:** 18+ dance party, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Summit House (Skinner State Park):** Jim Henry **Vertex:** Selectrocution **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek **East Street Studio:** staged reading of *Shopping Around* by Suzanne La Grande, directed by Keishya Salko

FRI
EIGHT

North Star: Dance party, w/ DJ Betsey **Pearl Street:** Top 40 w/ DJ Lance **Seven O's:** Showdown **Vertex:** 18+ laser CD dance party **Iron Horse:** Arlo Guthrie (2 shows) **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo

SAT
NINE

Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum:** Maple Ridge **Seven O's:** Showdown **Bay State Hotel:** Dieselmeat, Birthmark **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo **Pearl Street:** Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes, plus Club HMP, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Iron Horse:** Blood Oranges, McNixons, Scud Mt. Boys

SUN
TEN

Northampton Brewery: Steve Westfield & The Slow Tones, Painesville Lanes **Pearl Street:** Black Train Jack **Seven O's:** open mic **Iron Horse:** D.L. Minard & The Louisiana Aces **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic

MON
ELEVEN

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Iris Dement **Pearl Street:** Tower of Power **Vertex:** Gay Night, w/ DJ Steve

TUE
TWELVE

Northampton Brewery: open mic w/ host Jamie Morton **Pearl Street:** Teen Night **Vertex:** Sam Black Church **Iron Horse:** Iris Dement **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Northampton Center for the Arts:** open mic, w/ featured performer Mike Chrisman (from the *Valley Comic News*)

WED
THIRTEEN

Iron Horse: Jazz in July — 4 combos with vocals **Pearl Street:** Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** LIR, The Sighs (Summer Concert Series) **Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum:** Horace Clarence Royer & The Year of Jubilee Gospel Quartet **Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **Bay State Hotel:** Rock 'n' Roll Bargain Night (free before 10pm) **North Star:** C & W dancing

IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL

THUR 30

LOUP GAROU

FRI 1 7 PM

DAR WILLIAMS+

FRI 1 10 PM

ANGRY JOHNNY &
THE KILLBILLIES *plus*
The Amy Fairchild Band
plus The Flying Alligators

SAT 2 7 PM

BIG WAAGH
SCRATCH BAND

SAT 2 10 PM

TRAILER PARK

SUN 3

CORDELIA'S DAD

WED 6

SOLITARY ALL STARS
Tom Waits, The Carpenters,
Patty Smith, Neil Young

FRI 8 7 & 10 PM

ARLO GUTHRIE

SAT 9

BLOOD ORANGES
& McNIXONS

SUN 10

D. L. MINARD &
THE LOUISIANA ACES

MON 11

IRIS DEMENT

TUES 12

IRIS DEMENT

WED 13

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Drought

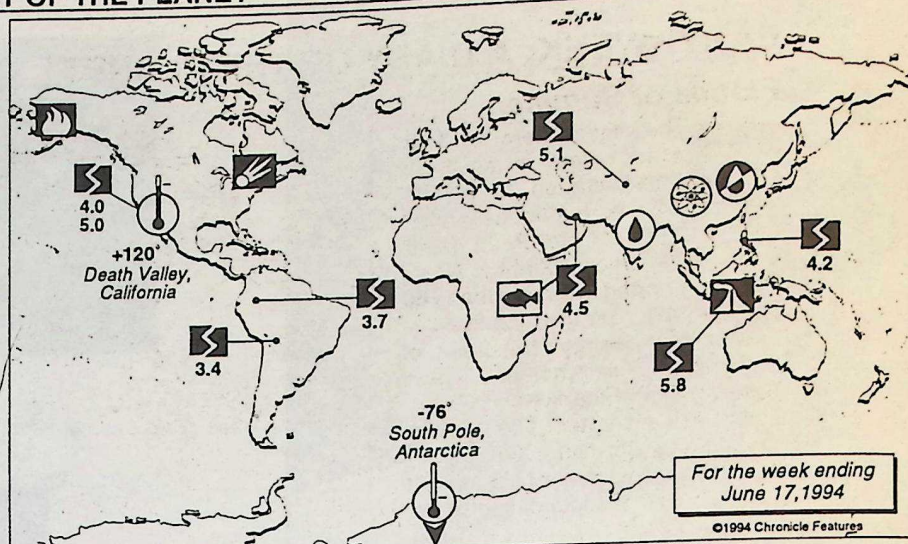
Sweltering heat and cloudless skies continue as China's capital suffers the worst drought of the century. Authorities warned residents to reduce water consumption. Beijing "is rapidly reaching water scarcity and facing limits to further economic development due to the 18-month drought," Teng Shutang, general-engineer of the Municipal Water Resources Bureau, told the official *China Daily*. Teng said the capital has been relying on limited supplies stored in its two largest reservoirs, which are fed only by annual rainfall.

Monsoon Relief

Showers from the advancing southwest monsoon brought welcome relief from a searing three-week heat wave that had baked much of the Indian subcontinent since late May. More than 400 died from heatstroke and other related health problems in India and Pakistan during the spell of sweltering heat. In Delhi, maximum temperatures reached 91 degrees following the showers, a drop of 21 degrees from the previous week. Government meteorologists warned that there would be several more days of extremely hot weather before the main monsoon rains arrive at the end of June.

Meteor

An unusually large piece of extraterrestrial stone lit up the Quebec sky and caused an eerie whistling sound before it crashed into the ground near a herd of cows about 60 miles north of Montreal. Stephan Forcier of St. Robert found a grapefruit-size fragment of the meteorite in his field after his cows gathered around the foot-deep hole where it landed. Thousands of meteors enter the earth's atmosphere each day, but most disintegrate before impact.



Eruption

Gamalama Volcano on the eastern Indonesian island of Ternate erupted with a plume of debris, but caused no damage or injuries. The 5,626-foot mountain showered several villages with ash and dust, and so severely reduced visibility that aviation officials canceled several flights. Gamalama erupted several times during the 1980s, each time forcing the evacuation of nearby villages.

Earthquakes

Aftershocks continued to rumble beneath Colombia and Bolivia following destructive temblors that caused widespread damage during the previous week. Parts of Southern California were jolted by major aftershocks of the Landers and Northridge earthquakes.

Earth movements also were felt in southern Iran, Tajikistan, Bali, and southern Luzon Island.

Still Testing

China exploded an underground nuclear bomb at the country's atomic test site in the Lop Nor Desert of Xinjiang Province on June 10. Beijing provided no official announcement of how strong the blast was, or exactly when it was conducted. Several nations condemned China for not observing a moratorium on nuclear testing that began following the last U.S. explosion in 1992.

Northern Fires

Lightning strikes sparked fires in interior Alaska's spruce forests parched by around-the-clock arctic daylight and hot late-spring days. More than 400 firefighters worked to control 16 blazes that were threatening property or towns. The most serious fire covered 4,000 acres near McGrath, a town of about 500 located on the Kuskokwim River, 250 miles southwest of Fairbanks.

Certified Safe

Uganda fish exports are beginning to recover from a slump that occurred following the drifting of about 10,000 corpses into Lake Victoria from neighboring war-torn Rwanda. According to the local Kampala daily *The Topic*, major buyers from Germany, the U.S., and Israel have renewed their orders after a microbiological survey by the World Health Organization found no evidence of contamination of the lake's water, or its marine life. Victims of the genocide in Rwanda spilled down the Kagera River and began to appear on Lake Victoria's shores in late April. Local officials canceled earlier directives that required consumers to cook fish from the lake for at least 30 minutes.

Additional Sources: BBC World Service, China's Central Weather Bureau, Environment Canada, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.

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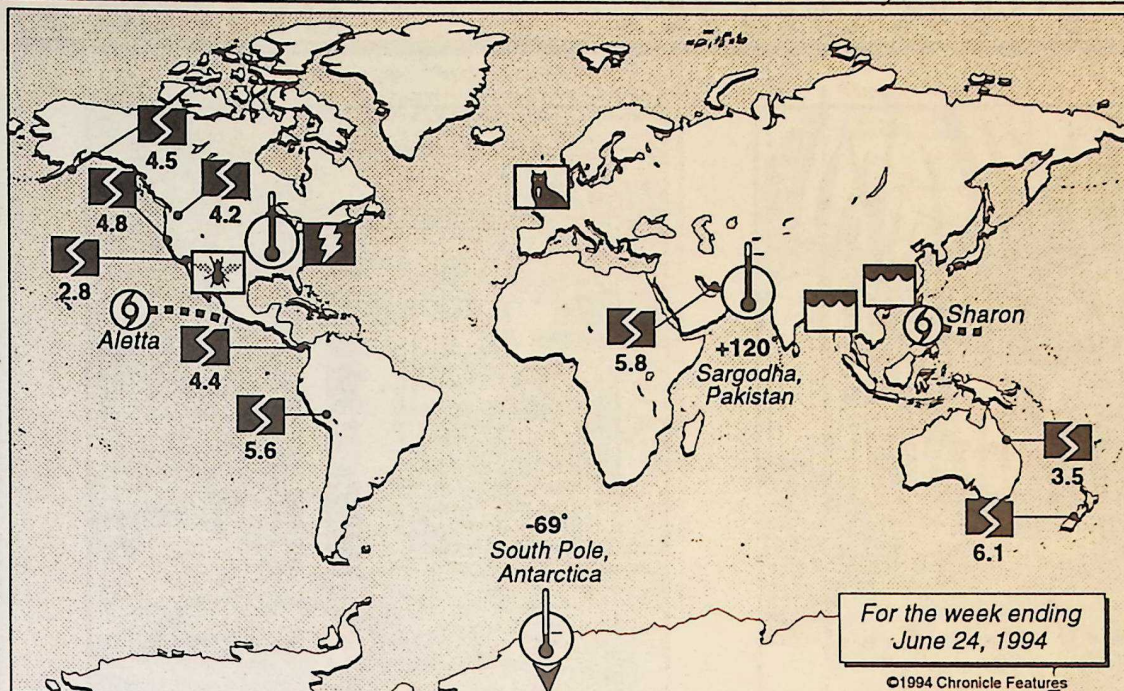
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Floods of Summer

The floodwaters of four major rivers in southern China started to recede late in the week, but floods continued to threaten the Pearl River Delta. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that more than 760 people died in the inundations around the country, hundreds of thousands of homes were destroyed, and the lives of 20 million people disrupted. The levels of the Xi Jiang, Bei Jiang, Xiang Jiang, and Gan Jiang rivers had risen to their highest, or second highest levels, since 1949.

Flash flooding from the onset of monsoon rains stranded 50,000 people in southeastern Bangladesh after torrents rushed down the Rangamati hills, submerging 300 villages. In the western Indian state of Gujarat, 44 people died in their homes when monsoon downpours collapsed the structures.



Killer Bees

The expected invasion of the southern United States by Africanized "killer bees" has stalled, and some experts say the assault may be running out of biological steam. The insects were predicted to reach the deserts of Southern California and Houston, Texas, this summer, but their advance across the Americas, which started from Brazil in 1957, may have reached its northernmost point. Scientists believe the genetic strain of the newly arrived bees may not be strong enough to overwhelm the resident bees, which are of European origin. This would be similar to what happened to the bees when they reached Buenos Aires in 1975. North of the Argentine capital, wild bees have remained strongly Africanized. To the south, the mating of the invading insects with the native bee population seemed to have little effect on offspring's behavior.

June Heat

High heat returned to several parts of northern India and Pakistan, where scores of people died of heatstroke or other complications from the weather. In addition to the human toll, the heat was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of domestic and wild animals.

One of the 10 warmest springs on record in the western U.S. turned into an unbearably hot summer for parts of the Midwest and East. High heat and humidity, combined with plummeting air quality, sent many of the region's residents to hospitals.

Lightning Deaths

Five members of a West Virginia family on a boating trip were killed by lightning when they made the mistake of seeking shelter under a tree. The victims died on an island in Lake Moomaw, Va., and were found by a fisherman the following day.

Earthquakes

A powerful temblor centered in southern Iran killed two people and injured more than 100 others as it wrecked 51 villages. Several terrifying aftershocks rolled through the affected area during the days that followed the initial shaking.

Earth movements also were felt in central Panama, New Zealand's South Island, the Queensland coast, Washington State, the Northridge aftershock zone in Southern California, Kodiak Island, extreme Northern California, and from central Peru to northern Chile.

Tropical Storms

Tropical storm Sharon doused Manila and other parts of Luzon Island with torrential rains. The resulting floods snarled traffic and commuter lines at the height of the rush hour, and triggered an avalanche of volcanic debris on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo.

Tropical storm Aletta, the season's first in the eastern Pacific, formed in the warm waters off Mexico.

Cat Cancer

A British animal-welfare organization warned cat owners to protect their animals with sunscreen to prevent them from developing skin cancer due to the thinning ozone layer. "I recommend using a strong sunblock on the cat's ears, though it can affect other parts of the cat's face, like the lips," said Graham Finch, a veterinary surgeon and spokesman for the British Small Animals Veterinary Association. Cats with white ears can develop tumors so severe that they have to be amputated, Finch advised. Darker fur seems to protect against cancer-causing ultraviolet light, while pale fur allows the harmful rays to reach the skin.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.



Local resident Todd McNixon preaches The Valley Comic News gospel to young opera lovers in Sydney, Australia

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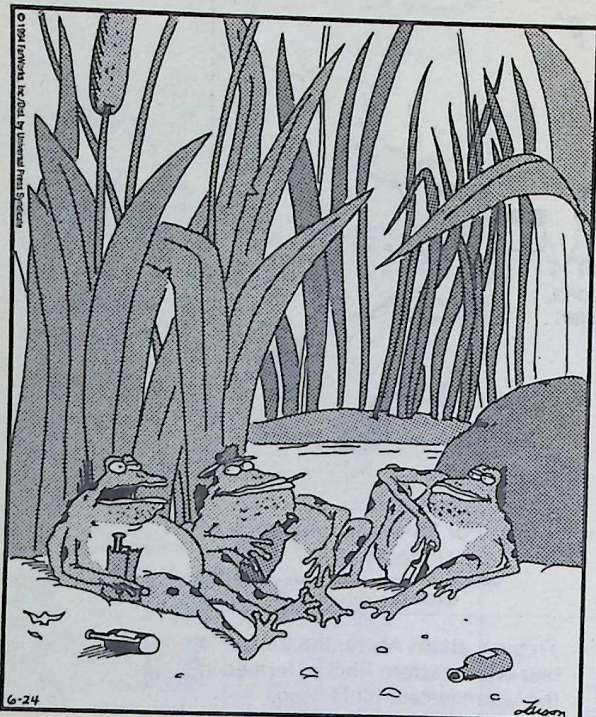
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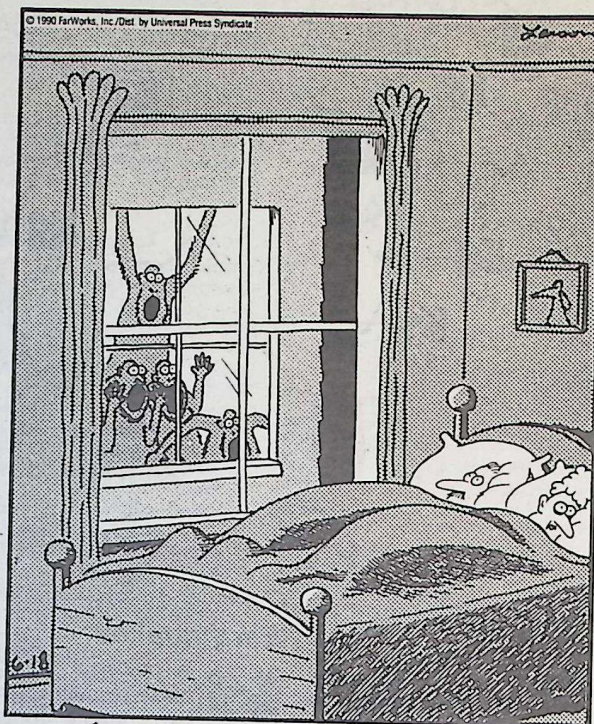
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"Yeah. I remember Jerry. Good friend of mine. ... You know, I never understood a single word he said, but he always had some mighty fine wine."



And so it went, night after night, year after year. In fact, the Hansens had been in a living hell ever since that fateful day the neighbor's "For Sale" sign had come down and a family of howler monkeys had moved in.



The party-goers were enjoying themselves immensely — unaware that, across the street in the shadows, a killer waited.

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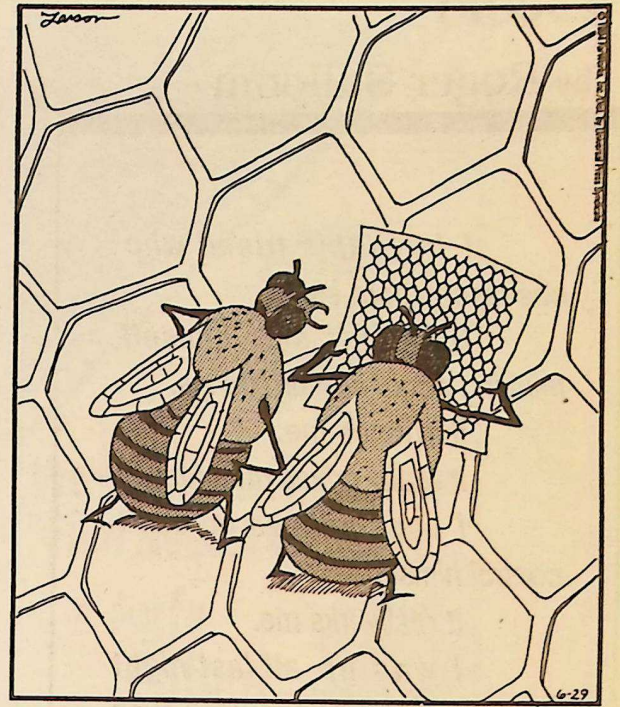
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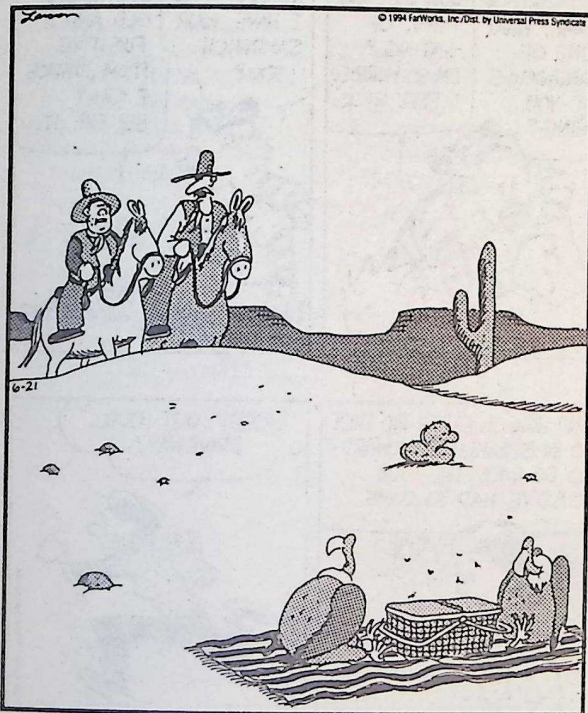
"Hey, Jim — go out for a short one!"



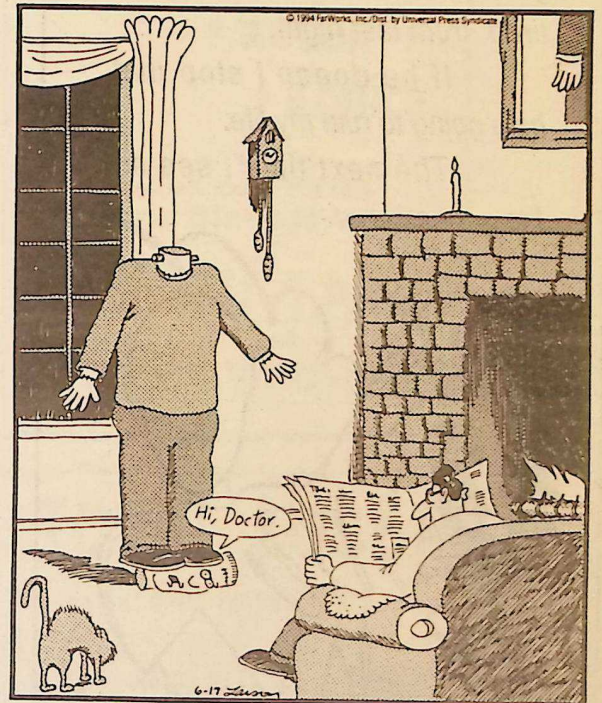
Suddenly the Mensa partygoers froze when Clarence shockingly uttered the "D" word.



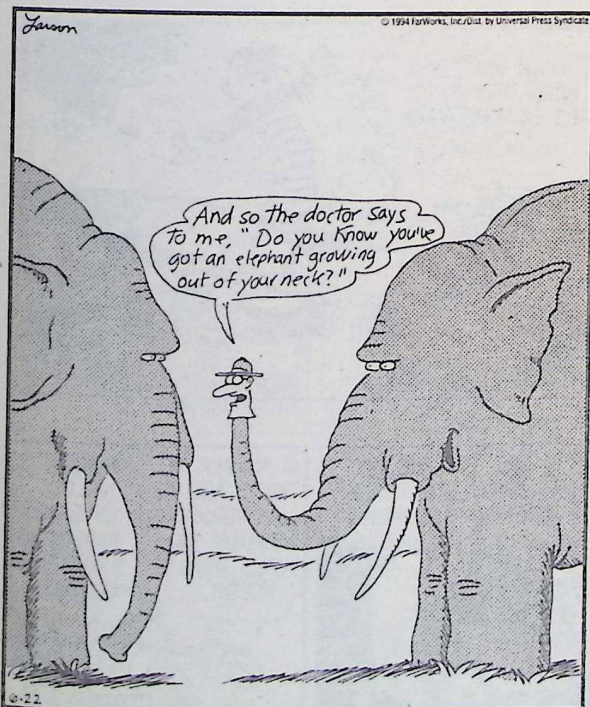
"Face it, Fred — you're lost!"



"It's a buzzard picnic, son — and you best remember to nary take a look inside one of them baskets."



In an effort to show off, the monster would sometimes stand on his head.



Elephantriloquists



Primitive waiting rooms



Leold

by Roger Salloom

I have this friend who
obsesses about stuff.

He can't stop himself
thinking about certain things.

It irritates me.

It really drives me crazy.

I can't believe he can't
control himself.

It really irks me.

I was up all last night
thinking about it. I couldn't even
go to school because I was so
tired from last night.

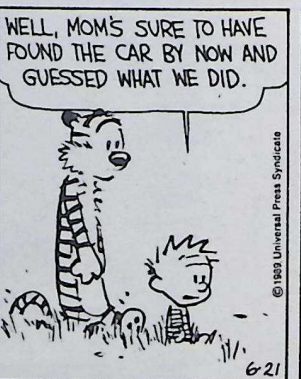
If he doesn't stop that,
he's going to ruin my life.

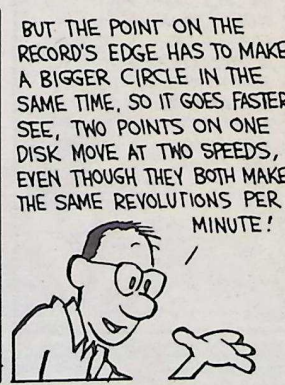
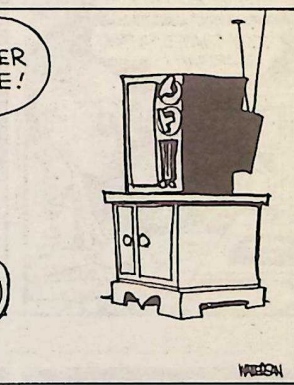
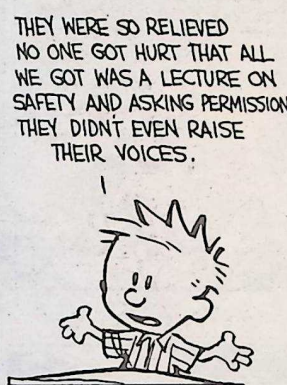
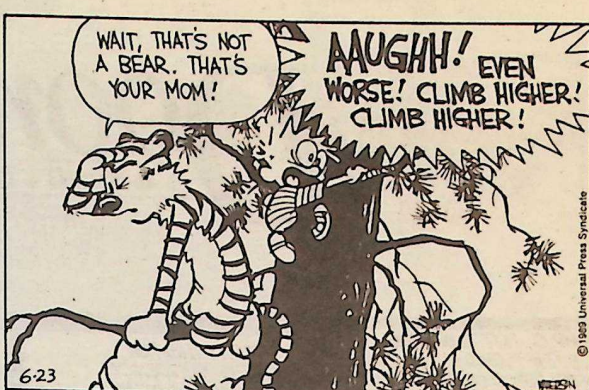
The next time I see him
I'm gonna



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATKINSON





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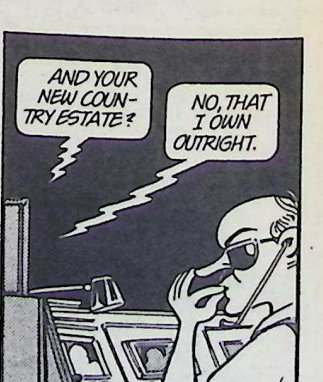
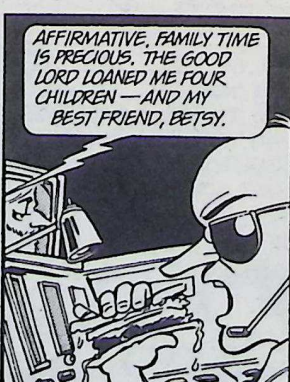
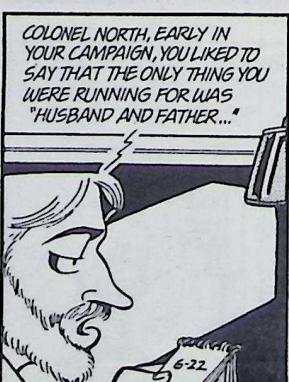
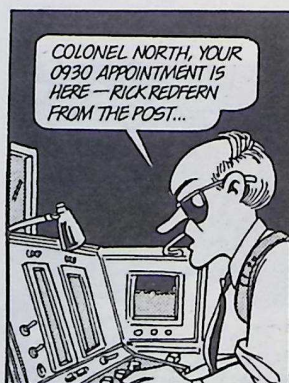
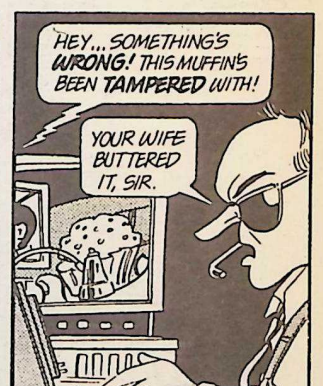
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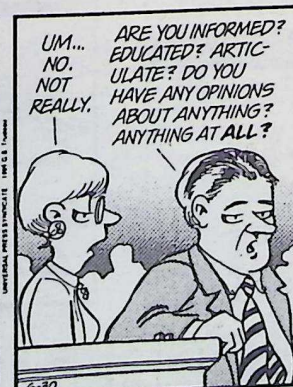
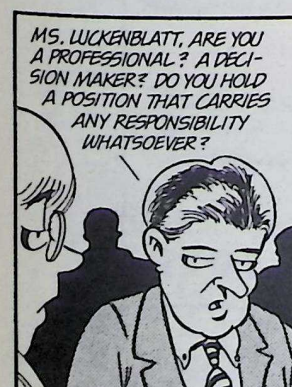
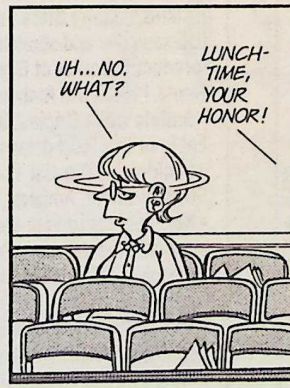
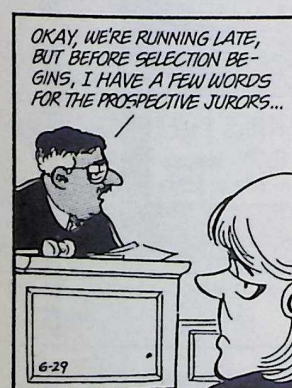
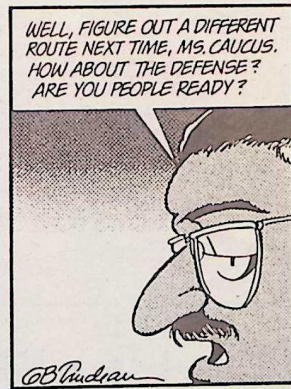
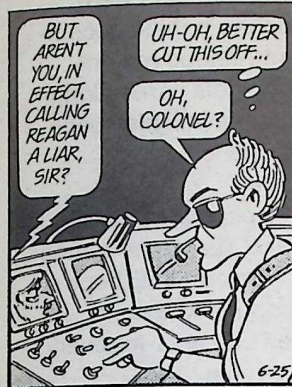
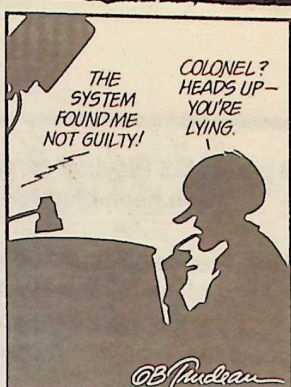
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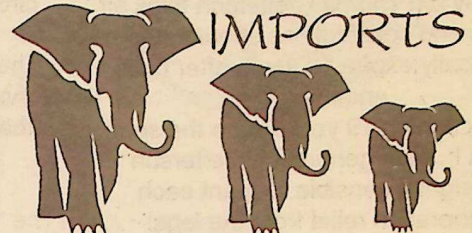
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

There are about 900 kinds of bats, and none of them is really blind.

Q. Why did Thomas Jefferson think all laws and constitutions should automatically expire 19 years after their enactment?

A. Reckoning 19 years to be the span of a human generation, Jefferson thought it sensible to grant each generation relief from the legal whimsies of the previous one.

Those grill marks you see on barbecue meats in TV commercials are usually put there with curling irons.

In 1938 Benito Mussolini banned Mickey Mouse comic books.

Woodrow Wilson said, "I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty."

There are roughly one quintillion molecules of water in a single snow crystal.

The average American spends 48 minutes every day going back and forth to work.

Q. How is a man's hat size gauged?
A. Divide the tape-measured circumference of his head by π (π). Average circumference is about 23 inches.

There are a lot of reasons to go to Harvard. Their libraries contain more than 10,000 books on fishing, for instance.

The "kill" in place names like Catskill and Fishkill has nothing to do with ending life. It came from a Dutch word meaning "stream."

The average locust swarm is said to be made up of about 50 billion locusts, and they eat four times as much in one day as does the entire human population of New York City.

Pollsters say that women spend more time in bed than men do.

Glaciers bound up so much water 20,000 years ago that sea levels were about 400 feet lower than today.

Q. What did astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin eat for their first meal on the moon?

A. Roast turkey.

73 percent of Playboy centerfolds have been blonde.

Oliver Wendell Holmes observed: "The mind of the bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract."

It is said that a skilled U.S. Customs inspector can look at 50 different makes of zippers and identify the country in which each was made.

Twenty-two members of Dartmouth's 1925 football team — then the No. 1 college team in the nation — were Phi Beta Kappas.

Q. The historical 21-gun salute — why was it set at 21 instead of another number?

A. It's traditionally fired this way: 1 (pause) 7 (pause) 7 (pause) 6 ... to commemorate the year 1776.

"Strong as an ox" doesn't cut it. A camel can carry twice as much weight as an ox.

Only the Queen can legally drive around England without a license plate.

Historian Will Durant said, "The political machine works because it is a united minority acting against a divided majority."

Q. Why is the hot-water faucet always on the left?

A. Before hot water was piped indoors, cold-water faucets were centered or put on the right to accommodate the right-handed majority. When hot-water faucets came along, they were put in the available space — on the left.

The least densely populated country in Europe is Iceland. Land there runs 123.5 acres per person. In Europe's most densely populated country -- Malta -- land goes one acre for every 68 people.

Ancient Greeks believed that Hercules invented what we call the square knot. They called it the Hercules knot.

Chicago law specifically prohibits people from taking their dogs to the opera.

Albania is about the size of Maryland.

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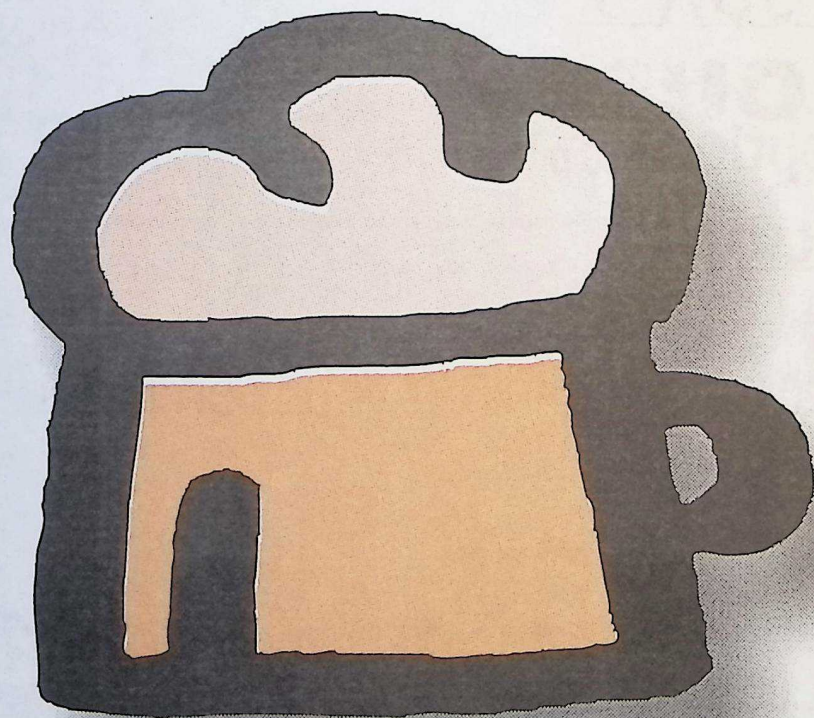


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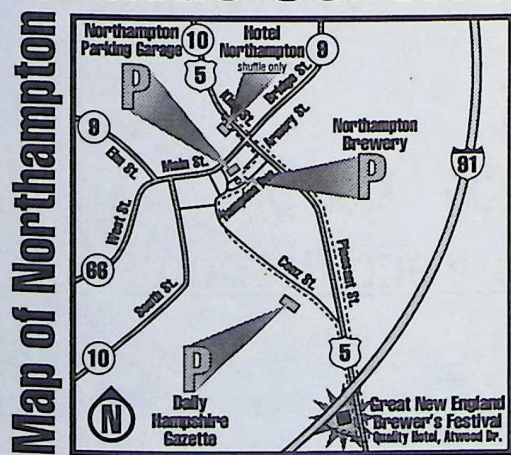
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Guest Authors

Michael Perlman, author of The Power of Trees, 2:00 - 3:00 pm;

Stan Freeman & Mike Nasuti, authors of The Natural History and Resources of Western Massachusetts; 4:00 - 5:00 pm

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